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REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT 1. Border Guards' Uniforms, Insignia, and Decorations

NO. OF PAGES 7

2. Navy-Type Uniforms

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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I. Czechoslovak Border Guard Uniforms, Insignia and Decorations

50X1 1. Uniform Clothing

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50X1 the following types of uniforms were issued to officers, career EM (z povolani), and drafted EM (v zakladni sluzbe):

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- (a) Dress Uniform (Vychazkovy Stejnokroj) - Worn for parades, off duty, on leaves and on passes. The dress uniform was of dark, olive drab, woolen material. The uniforms of the officers and career NCO's were of the same material, while that of the drafted NCO's and EM was of inferior material. Officers' trousers had a three-millimeter-wide green striped down the outside seams.
- (b) Service Uniform (Cvicni Stejnokroj) - Worn while on duty, for drills and field exercises. The uniform was exactly the same as the dress uniform.
- (c) Summer Uniform (Letni Stejnokroj) - This uniform was the same in style as the service uniform, but made out of lighter material. Summer uniforms were usually worn from May to September.

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(d) Winter Uniform (Zimni Stejhnokroj) - For winter months, the following items were issued to officers and EM on border guard duty:

- (1) Winter cap, fur lined, with ear flaps
- (2) Fur lined coat (knee length)
- (3) Felt padded pants (worn over the regular trousers)
- (4) Pair of felt boots (German type)
- (5) Pair of rubber, knee-length boots
- (6) Pair of white cotton trousers, and jacket with hood for camouflage purposes

These items of winter uniform were returned to company supply in the spring and were reissued the following winter.

2. Shoulderboard Insignia

Rank insignia in the PS followed the Czech Army pattern. There were two basic shoulderboard colors for PS officers - gold and silver. Gold was worn by officers who were with the troops on the border and also signal corps and engineer officers (who were considered as being in combat arms). Silver was worn by officers in the rear services (Tyl). Rear services in the PS included the quartermaster, finance, food service, medics, and transportation. The shoulderboards had green piping. One longitudinal green stripe through the center of the shoulderboard denoted company grade officers, and two green stripes, field grade officers. The ranks of officers were designated by five-pointed stars, which were silver-colored for officers wearing gold shoulderboards, and gold-colored for officers wearing silver shoulderboards.

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There also existed officer shoulderboards for combat uniforms, but these were not issued [redacted] The combat shoulderboards were of a drab khaki color, with green piping and diagonal stripes. Silver stars were used to designate the rank.

The shoulderboards of PS EM were green with red piping for both career NCO's and draftees. Rank designations of EM were shown on the shoulderboards by means of stripes. The stripes of career NCO's were yellow for line troops and white for rear services. Some of the NCO's replaced, at their own expense, the yellow stripes with a gold type and the white, with a silver.

Draftees serving their compulsory tour of duty could attain the rank of sergeant, and, in some exceptional cases, that of sergeant first class (rotni), but never the rank of master sergeant (starsina). The EM in the rear services were all career NCO's.

3. Collar Tabs

Collar tabs of PS officers were green in color, without piping, and were identical in design to those worn by Army officers. On these collar tabs, wolfhound head insignia of gold-colored metal were worn. PS career NCO's wore the same type of tabs and insignia as the officers, while PS draftee NCO's and EM wore green collar tabs without piping. These tabs, insignia, and flashes were the same design and size as those for the Army.

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4. Caps

PS officers and career NCO's were issued both the service and garrison caps. The service cap was made of dark, olive drab material, with a black plastic visor, black plastic chin strap, dark blue headband and green crown piping. The service cap (the flat-top type) had a red enameled five-pointed star with a silver Czechoslovak lion emblem, while the garrison cap had a gold-colored metal, shield-shaped insignia with Czechoslovak lion. There was no piping on the garrison caps of officers, career NCO's, or draftee personnel.

5. Special Unit Designations

Special unit designations and insignia did not exist in the PS up to the time Source defected.

6. Branch of Service Insignia

At the Hq., 11th PS Brig., in Bratislava (the 6th PS Co., of which Source was CO. was subordinate to this Hq.), [redacted] some of the [redacted] engineer, signal corps, and transportation corps insignia. These were of the same design as those worn by the Army officers belonging to the same branches of services, and were worn on the shoulderboards in the same manner as by the Army officers.

7. Wound and Service Stripes

Wound stripes or stripes to indicate length of service in the PS were not in existence in PS [redacted]

8. Ribbons

[redacted], 11th PS Brig., wearing ribbons over their left breast pocket, but ribbons were not issued to PS personnel.

9. Decorations

[redacted] three types of decorations worn by members of the PS:

- (a) Fucik Emblem (Fucikuv Odznak) - Awarded to officers and EM who passed a very rigid examination on politics. In their lectures, the political officer or political NCO of a unit urged men to acquire this emblem. Those desiring this award were required to read several prescribed books on politics. Whenever these individuals were ready for the examination, the unit political officer or NCO reported this to higher headquarters, which sent out to the respective unit a special examining board consisting of three political NCO's, who conducted the examination. [redacted] only three PS EM underwent such an examination and were awarded the Fucik Emblem.

The Fucik Emblem was of a silver-colored alloy, about the size of a US half dollar, and was worn over the left breast pocket.

- (b) Tyr's Emblem - Awarded for physical ability. To obtain this emblem, officers and EM had to complete 15 phases of physical exercise. These awards were normally attained at basic training or at the PS Academy. The following are some of the phases of exercises needed to attain Tyr's Emblem:

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- (1) 100 m. run in 13.8 seconds
- (2) 100 m. swim
- (3) Bicycle maneuvering on a difficult road
- (4) Three kilometer run, in 13 or 15 minutes
- (5) 1,500 m. run, time limit unknown
- (6) Rope climbing, with hands only
- (7) Broad jump, four meters
- (8) Gymnastics
- (9) Shooting with airgun at a target, about 15 m. distant, and attaining the minimum prescribed score (exact score unknown)
- (10) Weight lifting, two-thirds of one's own weight

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The Tyr's Emblem was made of bronze-colored metal, was about the size of a US silver dollar, and was worn by officers and EM on the lower section of the left breast pocket.

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(c) Emblem of a Model Soldier - This emblem had various inscriptions upon it.

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(1) Model tank crew member (Vzorni tankista)

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(2) Model communications man (Vzorni spojars)

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(3) Model driver (Vzorni vozdich)

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(4) Model medic (Vzorni zdravotnik) - Worn by some PS medics.

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In order to earn the model soldier emblem, an individual, besides his specialty, had to excel in political matters, discipline, marksmanship, and knowledge of certain military regulations. The bronze-colored metal Emblem of a Model Soldier was oval in shape and was worn over the right breast pocket.

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B. As much detail as possible on component parts of an officer, non-com and EM uniform, winter, summer, parade, dress, service or everyday, and field or combat.

1. The following items of clothing were issued to officers and career NCO's:

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<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
1	Service cap	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Garrison cap	Choice wool	Dark OD
4	Shirts	Choice wool	Dark OD
2 pr.	Shorts, long winter	Cotton	White
2 pr.	Shorts, short summer	Cotton	White
12	Handkerchiefs	Cotton	White
2	Towels, bath	Cotton	White
2	Undershirts, long	Wool	White
8 pr.	Stockings	Cotton	Dark OD
3	Ties	Cotton	Dark OD
1	Belt	Leather	Brown
1	Sam Browne Belt	Leather	Brown
1 pr.	Gloves	Leather	Brown
1 pr.	Shoes, low-quarter	Leather	Brown
1 pr.	Shoes, service	Leather	Brown
1 pr.	Boots	Leather	Black
1	Blouse, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1 pr.	Trousers, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Blouse, service	Choice wool	Dark OD
1 pr.	Trousers, service	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Blouse, summer	Choice cotton	Dark OD
1 pr.	Trousers, summer	Choice cotton	Dark OD
1 pr.	Riding breeches	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Overcoat, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Overcoat, service	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Topcoat, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Raincoat	Rubberized material	Light gray
1	Shelter half (for field problems)	Waterproof material	OD

The dress uniform, including overcoat, topcoat, and riding breeches, was tailor-made for officers and career NCO's. In every larger city, where troops were stationed in large numbers, there existed a cooperative named "Arma", at which civilian tailors were engaged in making uniforms for officers and career NCO's of the Armed Forces.

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Every two years, officers and career NCO's were allotted a new dress uniform. A new topcoat and dress overcoat were allotted every three years, while riding breeches were allotted every year.

The graduates of the PS Academy received their items of clothing upon graduation, or, as in the case of career NCO's, as soon as they volunteered for extended active duty.

The new underwear, shirts, ties, handkerchiefs, etc., were issued every year to officers and career NCO's.

2. The following items of clothing were issued to draftees upon entry into the PS, and were also worn by NCO's who were not career men:

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
2	Service caps	Choice wool	Dark OD
2	Shirts	Choice wool	Dark OD
2 pr.	Shorts, long winter	Cotton	White
2 pr.	Shorts, short summer	Cotton	White
3	Handkerchiefs	Cotton	White
2	Towels	Cotton	White
2	Undershirts	Cotton	White
4 pr.	Foot wraps, winter	Cotton	White
3 pr.	Foot wraps, summer	Cotton	White
1 pr.	Stockings	Cotton	OD
2	Ties	Cotton	Dark OD
1	Belt	Leather	Brown
1	Belt with 12 x 10 cm. silver-colored buckle on which was pressed the Czech lion emblem	Leather	Brown
2 pr.	Gloves	Woven wool	OD
2 pr.	Shoes, service	Leather	Brown
2 pr.	Leggings, British style	Canvas	Dark OD
1	Blouse, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1 pr.	Trousers, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Blouse, service	Choice wool	Dark OD
1 pr.	Trousers, service	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Blouse, summer	Choice cotton	Dark OD
1 pr.	Trousers, summer	Choice cotton	Dark OD
1	Overcoat, dress	Choice wool	Dark OD
1	Overcoat, service	Choice wool	Dark OD

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<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
1	Raincoat	Rubberized material	Khaki
1	Shelter half (for field problems)	Waterproof material	OD

Drafted PS EM, upon entering the service, were issued clothing and underwear as near as possible to their own size. The dress uniform was not always new, but was at least in good shape.

it was possible to exchange a worn-out article for a serviceable one through unit supplies.

C. Include information unit of issue, expected length of service of issue, various component parts of uniform and how and where issued.

II. Czechoslovak Navy-Type Uniform

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B. The uniform of the EM was also of dark blue material. The upper part of the uniform, the jumper, was a loose type coat with a large white striped collar resting on the individual's shoulders and back. The EM wore a flat hat without a visor. There was an inscription of some type, centered on the hat band. Two long, black ribbons were attached at the rear of the cap. These ribbons were long enough to reach to about the middle of the individual's back. insignia

C. The green shoulderboards of the EM were not worn parallel to the shoulder as normally worn by PS men, but were sewn crosswise, extending parallel to the sleeve seam. The metal wolfhound head insignia were on the shoulderboards.

D. no references were ever made at the Hq., 11th PS Brig., to PS men's patrolling the Danube River,

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